

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 196854

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT ATHENS 5356 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
SECDEF USCINCEUR CHJUSMAGG 07 SEPTEMBER.

QUOTE

S E C R E T ATHENS 6494

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJ: GOG REQUEST FOR ALLOCATION OF AA WEAPONS

FOR HARTMAN AND VEST FROM STEARNS

1. DEFMIN AVEROFF TELEPHONED ME ABOUT MIDNIGHT LAST NIGHT
(SEPT 6-7) AND AT 0700 THIS MORNING TO MAKE STRONG PERSONAL
PLEA THAT ALL US SURPLUS ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS IN STORAGE IN
CAMP DARBY, ITALY, BE ALLOCATED FOR PURCHASE BY GOG. I
UNDERTOOK TO MAKE IMMEDIATE INQUIRIES AND GENERAL BURKE HAS
ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH EUCOM TO CONVEY GREEK GOVT'S
INTEREST IN WEAPONS.

2. WEAPONS IN QUESTION ARE QUAD MOUNTED .50 CAL AA MACHINE

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GUNS, PRESUMABLY ON TOWED MOUNT, 450 OF WHICH ARE AT CAMP

DARBY. UNDER MIMEX PROGRAM, 20 HAD BEEN ALLOCATED BY EUROM TO GOG. INSPECTING OFFICER FROM HELLENIC ARMY (HA) REQUESTED ALLOCATION OF 30 MORE, WHICH APPROVED BY EUROM AND DOD. ON SEPTEMBER 6, HA INSPECTING OFFICER, WHO APPARENTLY LED TO BELIEVE THAT REMAINING 400 QUAD .50 CAL MOUNTS UNALLOCATED, INFORMED HIS SENIORS OF GOOD CONDITION AND LOW COST (\$800 EACH) OF REMAINING MOUNTS, LEADING TO AVEROFF'S CALLS. COMPLICATING MATTER IS FACT THAT REMAINING 400 WEAPONS HAD BEEN ALLOCATED EARLIER TO TURKEY.

3. CHJUSMAGG, WITH WHOM WE HAVE COLLABORATED ON THIS MESSAGE, HAS RECOMMENDED TO EUROM THAT ALL, OR AS MANY AS POSSIBLE, OF REMAINING 400 WEAPONS BE ALLOCATED TO GOG. EUROM HAS INDICATED THAT ORIGINAL ALLOCATION MADE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO UNDER PRE-CRISIS CONDITIONS THEN PREVAILING. GENERAL BURKE AND I BELIEVE THAT MEETING REQUESTS OF PRESENT GOG WHENEVER POSSIBLE WILL BE VERY HELPFUL NOT ONLY IN SHORING UP OUR OWN ERODED POSITION BUT IN STRENGTHENING PRESENT GOVERNMENT BOTH VIS-A-VIS ITS LEFT-WING POLITICAL CRITICS AND ITS OWN SOMETIMES RESTIVE MILITARY.

SINCE ABOVE DRAFTED, VADM ARAPAKIS, CHIEF, HELLENIC NAVY, HAS TELEPHONED ME TO ADD HIS OWN PLEA TO THAT OF DEFMIN AVEROFF. IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS CASE MAY BECOME ONE OF A SERIES OF LITMUS TESTS OF THE RELIABILITY OF OUR SUPPORT FOR GREECE, AND IT IS FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW EXCEEDINGLY IMPORTANT THAT WE MAKE AVAILABLE TO GOG AS MANY AS WE CAN OF THESE 400 WEAPONS.

5. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR PERSONAL INTERVENTION WITH DOD TO SEE WHETHER IT IS POSSIBLE TO HELP GREEKS OUT ON A MATTER TO WHICH THEY OBVIOUSLY ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE. AVEROFF INDICATED TO ME THAT, WHILE GOG WOULD LIKE ALL OF THE WEAPONS, HE WOULD PERSONALLY BE CONTENT WITH HALF OF THEM. I SAID THAT I WOULD GET BACK TO HIM WITHIN 2 - 3 DAYS WITH A STATUS REPORT.
TASCA UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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